



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 81

January Session, 2001

Substitute House Bill No. 6644

House of Representatives, March 29, 2001

The Committee on Public Safety reported through REP. DARGAN of the 115th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A VOLUNTARY STATE PROGRAM OF ACCREDITATION FOR CONNECTICUT POLICE AGENCIES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 7-294d of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 (a) The Police Officer Standards and Training Council shall have the
4 following powers:

5 (1) To develop and periodically update and revise a comprehensive
6 municipal police training plan;

7 (2) To approve, or revoke the approval of, any police training school
8 and to issue certification to such schools and to revoke such
9 certification;

10 (3) To set the minimum courses of study and attendance required
11 and the equipment and facilities to be required of approved police

12 training schools;

13 (4) To set the minimum qualifications for law enforcement
14 instructors and to issue appropriate certification to such instructors;

15 (5) To require that all probationary candidates receive the hours of
16 basic training deemed necessary before being eligible for certification,
17 such basic training to be completed within one year following the
18 appointment as a probationary candidate, unless the candidate is
19 granted additional time to complete such basic training by the council;

20 (6) To require the registration of probationary candidates with the
21 academy within ten days of hiring for the purpose of scheduling
22 training;

23 (7) To issue appropriate certification to police officers who have
24 satisfactorily completed minimum basic training programs;

25 (8) To require that each police officer satisfactorily complete at least
26 forty hours of certified review training every three years in order to
27 maintain certification, unless the officer is granted additional time not
28 to exceed one year to complete such training by the council;

29 (9) To renew the certification of those police officers who have
30 satisfactorily completed review training programs;

31 (10) To establish uniform minimum educational and training
32 standards for employment as a police officer in full-time positions,
33 temporary or probationary positions and part-time or voluntary
34 positions;

35 (11) To visit and inspect police basic training schools and to inspect
36 each school at least once each year;

37 (12) To consult with and cooperate with universities, colleges and
38 institutes for the development of specialized courses of study for

39 police officers in police science and police administration;

40 (13) To consult with and cooperate with departments and agencies
41 of this state and other states and the federal government concerned
42 with police training;

43 (14) To employ an executive director and any other personnel that
44 may be necessary in the performance of its functions;

45 (15) To perform any other acts that may be necessary and
46 appropriate to carry out the functions of the council as set forth in
47 sections 7-294a to 7-294e, inclusive;

48 (16) To accept contributions, grants, gifts, donations, services or
49 other financial assistance from any governmental unit, public agency
50 or the private sector;

51 (17) To conduct any inspection and evaluation that may be
52 necessary to determine if a law enforcement unit is complying with the
53 provisions of this section;

54 (18) At the request and expense of any law enforcement unit, to
55 conduct general or specific management surveys;

56 (19) To develop objective and uniform criteria for granting any
57 waiver of regulations or procedures established by the council;

58 (20) To recruit, select and appoint candidates to the position of
59 probationary candidate, as defined in section 7-294a, and provide
60 recruit training for candidates of the Connecticut Police Corps
61 program in accordance with the Police Corps Act, 42 USC 14091 et
62 seq., as amended from time to time;

63 (21) To form an Accreditation Committee for purposes of a
64 voluntary law enforcement accreditation program as provided in
65 section 2 of this act.

66 Sec. 2. (NEW) (a) The Police Officer Standards and Training Council
67 shall establish an Accreditation Committee. The committee shall
68 consist of no fewer than twelve members who shall be appointed by
69 the council, provided the members appointed to the committee shall
70 (1) be volunteers, (2) have background and experience in law
71 enforcement administration, (3) represent different areas of the state,
72 and (4) represent different size cities or towns. The members of the
73 committee shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to
74 actual expenses involved in the performance of their duties.
75 Employees of the council shall act as staff to the committee.

76 (b) The Accreditation Committee, in consultation with state and
77 municipal law enforcement units, shall develop standards and
78 methodologies to establish a state-wide voluntary law enforcement
79 accreditation program. The council shall review such standards and
80 methodologies, and, on or before January 1, 2002, shall issue standards
81 and procedures for law enforcement units to receive accreditation. The
82 committee shall receive and review initial and renewal accreditation
83 reports from law enforcement units that choose to participate in this
84 program, and shall make recommendations for action on such reports
85 to the council. Law enforcement units that meet the standards shall
86 receive accreditation awards from the council.

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In line 64, "as provided in section 2 of this act" was added for clarity,
and in line 66, the word "Officer" was added after "Police" for accuracy.

PS JOINT FAVORABLE SUBST.-LCO

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: Cost

Affected Agencies: Police Officer Standards and Training Council

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation**State Impact:**

	FY 02	FY 03
State Cost	\$75,000	\$90,000

This bill would result in costs to the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council estimated at \$75,000 in FY 02 and at \$90,000 per year thereafter. The bill requires the council to establish a committee of at least 12 volunteer members to develop standards and methodologies for a statewide voluntary law enforcement accreditation program. The committee is required to review the reports from the law enforcement units that choose to seek accreditation, and make their recommendations to the council. The council must award accreditation to the units that meet the standards. The council is required to issue the standards and procedures by January 1, 2002.

Committee members are entitled to their actual expenses involved in the performance of their duties. Costs of the committee's necessary expenses and materials are estimated at \$4,000 per year. The bill requires employees of POST to staff the committee. The agency estimates that this will require two additional positions, a Program Manager at \$55,000 per year, and a Secretary at \$31,000 per year. The staff will provide administrative support to the committee and assist members in their review of the applications and the verification of the information through visits to the law enforcement units. The accreditation would be good for a limited time, probably from 3 to 5 years, and would require a renewal application and subsequent visits by committee members and staff.

There are 91 organized municipal police departments, at least 7 university police departments, and an unknown number of other law enforcement units at the state and local level (state protective services and Judicial units and local constabulary). It is anticipated that many of these units will seek accreditation from the POST council because (1) it makes the unit more professional, (2) could reduce liability and insurance costs due to proof of adhering to standards, and (3) might facilitate recruitment and retention of personnel.

The bill and the creation of the program would not directly result in costs to law enforcement units. There could be costs to state agencies and municipalities that have law enforcement units that seek accreditation. Costs could result from whatever their law enforcement units would have to acquire or change in order to meet the accreditation standards.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6644

***AN ACT CONCERNING A VOLUNTARY STATE PROGRAM OF
ACCREDITATION FOR CONNECTICUT POLICE AGENCIES.***

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the Police Officer Standards and Training Council to establish a committee of at least 12 volunteer members to develop standards and methods for a statewide voluntary law enforcement accreditation program. The committee must consult with state and local law enforcement agencies. The council must review the standards and methods and by January 1, 2002, issue accreditation standards and procedures for law enforcement agencies.

The committee must review accreditation reports from law enforcement agencies that choose to participate in the program and recommend actions on the reports to the council. It must give awards to participating law enforcement agencies that meet the standards.

The council appoints the committee members, and its employees serve as staff to the committee. Committee members must have background and experience in law enforcement administration. They must represent different areas of the state and different size cities. They serve without compensation but are entitled to expenses for performing their duties.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2001

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 21 Nay 0

